

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**GERALD E. POPE,**

Defendant.

**Case No. 17-MJ-2032DPR**

**MOTION OF THE UNITED STATES FOR  
PRETRIAL DETENTION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)**

Comes now the United States of America, by Thomas M. Larson, Acting United States Attorney, and the undersigned Special Assistant United States Attorney, both for the Western District of Missouri, and hereby moves the Court to detain the defendant without bail pending trial of this matter and to hold a hearing pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2) for the purpose of demonstrating that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of other persons and the community. As grounds for the motion, the United States submits that the defendant poses a danger to the community.

**SUPPORTING SUGGESTIONS**

The defendant is charged by Complaint with being a felon in possession of firearms. Title 18, United States Code, Section 3142(f)(2) provides that a hearing must be held by the appropriate judicial officer to determine whether any condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person in the community if the attorney for the Government moves for such a hearing. This provision further states that at such a hearing, the rules concerning the admissibility of evidence do not apply, and the Court must be persuaded with facts of a clear and convincing nature that “no condition or combination of conditions will

reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required and the safety of any other person and the community . . . .”

A defendant cannot be detained as either unlikely to appear or dangerous under Section 3142(e) unless a finding is made that no release conditions “will reasonably assure” the appearance of the person or the safety of the community. (Emphasis added). “The ultimate determination that the magistrate and then, if requested, the district judge is required to make—whether it is reasonably certain that the defendant will show up for trial if admitted to bail (and whether, even if so, he can be left at large without endangering the safety of any other person, *see* 18 U.S.C. §§ 3142(e)-(g); *United States v. Daniels*, 772 F.2d 382 (7th Cir.1985)) is inherently judgmental. It depends both on personal observation of the defendant and on a weighing of the daunting list of factors in section 3142(g).” *United States v. Diaz*, 777 F.2d 1236, 1237-38 (7th Cir. 1985).

Concerning a finding of future dangerousness to the community, such a finding can be based on evidence that the defendant has been a danger in the past, if his past conduct suggests the likelihood of future misconduct. *United States v. Dominguez*, 783 F.2d 702, 707-08 (7th Cir. 1986). Danger to the community does not only refer to physical violence, but can apply to any likely conduct that will hurt the community, including the potential of continued criminal activity. *United States v. Tortora*, 922 F.2d 880 (1st Cir.1990).

Title 18, United States Code, Section 3142(g) lists the factors this Court should consider in determining whether the Court can fashion conditions that will reasonably assure the safety of the community. These factors include: (1) the nature and the circumstances of the offense charged; (2) the weight of the evidence against the defendant; (3) the history and the characteristics of the defendant, including his criminal history, and; (4) the nature and the

seriousness of the danger to the community that would be posed by the defendant's release. 18, U.S.C. § 3142(g); *Tortora*, 922 F.2d at 885-86. The Court need not guarantee that community safety will not suffer by the release of the defendant, only that the safety of the community can be reasonably assured through court supervision while on release. *United States v. Orta*, 760 F.2d 887, 891-92 (8th Cir.1985).

There is a serious risk that the defendant is a future danger to the community based on his criminal history. Defendant has past convictions for armed violence, aggravated discharge of a firearm, and possession of a controlled substance.

There is also a serious risk to the community when considering the nature and circumstances of the charged offense. The defendant was stopped after leaving his home on May 18, 2017, where officers found approximately \$6,000 in U.S. currency in his possession. The home was then secured. A warrant was later executed at the home, and officers found the firearm charged in the Complaint between two of the mattresses in the bedroom. They also found Moneygram receipts with the defendant's name on them and a pill bottle in the bathroom with his name on it as well. As noted above, the defendant is a felon and not able to legally possess a firearm.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, the United States requests that a detention hearing be held and that the defendant be denied bail because no combination of conditions can reasonably assure the safety of the community.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS M. LARSON  
Acting United States Attorney

By /s/ Josephine M. Larison  
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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on May 23, 2017, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which sent e-mail notification of such filing to all CM/ECF participants in this case, and I hereby certify that I have mailed by United States Postal Service the foregoing documents to all non-CM/ECF participants in this case.

/s/ Josephine M. Larison  
Josephine M. Larison  
Special Assistant United States Attorney